



# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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### Commission OKs project money for military bases

By Michael McNutt  
The Oklahoman

A state commission approved funding requests Thursday for projects at two Air Force bases in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission awarded the city of Enid \$225,000 to build a backup water system at Vance Air Force Base.

The city of Altus will get \$200,000 to improve an **Altus Air Force Base** runway so it can be used by tenants of a planned \$20 million air industrial park nearby.

The backup water supply at Vance will provide security to the base in the event its main water supply is attacked as well as a backup in the event a water line is cut, commission Chairman Mike Cooper said.

The project is estimated to cost \$350,000. The city of Enid will pay the remaining \$125,000 of the project's cost, he said.

Runway improvements at **Altus Air Force Base** will allow it to be used by private aircraft either owned or doing business with tenants at the air industrial park west of the base, said Dr. Joe Leverett, a commissioner from Altus.

The flights, not expected to be more than one per day, would not interfere with the base's mission, Leverett said.

The commission was allocated \$1 million this fiscal year to help the state's five military installations in the event any was selected for closure by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

All five escaped unscathed; the money can be used to help the bases deal with growth and security issues, Cooper said.

The commission earlier awarded \$225,000 to the city of Lawton to help in efforts to buy a strip of land near Fort Sill to prevent urban development along the post's southern boundary.

Tinker Air Force Base is expected to make a request at the panel's next meeting.

The commission has \$350,000 available in this year's funds and \$200,000 in carryover funds, Cooper said.

It will ask legislators for \$1 million for the next fiscal year, Cooper said.



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### LIFE AT LUKE

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THE GLENDALE REPUBLIC • WEEKEND EDITION, DECEMBER 3-4, 2005

#### DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REDUCING HOUSING INVENTORY



Senior Airman Steven Krieg of the 56th Component Maintenance Squadron walks through housing at Luke Air Force Base with his wife, Cassie, and their children. Luke will privatize base housing starting April 1.

## Base housing going private

Standard for homes will rise faster, be more attractive, Luke says

By Charles Kelly  
GLENDALE REPUBLIC

Military family housing at Luke Air Force Base will be turned over next year to a private developer in an effort to get better on-base housing quicker.

The changeover is scheduled to begin by April 1. Construction of new housing and renovation of old housing will begin before June 1.

By April, Luke will turn over 724 homes to a private developer through a 50-year lease. That developer has not been selected yet.

The Air Force raised its housing standard in the late 1990s. Given the tougher standard and tight military budgets for housing, it would take 30 years to update the base's housing if the military didn't privatize it, said Walter Durham, privatization program manager for the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron at Luke.

### Privatized housing

■ On-base tenants will pay rent to a private property owner, but their basic housing allowance will cover all the rent and utilities for a year, or until the homes are metered.

■ Once the homes are metered, or after a year, tenants who use more than average amounts of utilities will have to pay the extra costs out of pocket.

■ Some on-base tenants may have to move during the construction of new housing and renovation of current housing. More details will be provided in the future.

■ It's possible but unlikely that some civilians could wind up

living on the base. If the on-base housing rate for Luke families falls below 95 percent for three consecutive months, the private property owner could rent to other people but would have to follow a priority list. First in line would be other active-duty military, then, in descending order, federal civil-service employees, retired military and their families, National Guard and Reserve members and their families, retired federal civil-service employees, defense contractors or employees, and members of the general public. The property owner must again fill the units with Luke active-duty families as soon as possible.

With privatization, Luke families will see their housing raised to the standard in seven years, he said.

"It gets done faster, and they (military families) get newer housing under privatization," Durham said.

Homes will be more attrac-

tive, Luke officials say, because they will be built or renovated to attract local buyers and renters. Developers will provide more attractive amenities to supplement the housing, such as community centers, playgrounds, sports fields and swimming pools.

The change at Luke is part of a Defense Department plan to cut its housing inventory all over the world. By the end of 2009, nearly three-fourths of homes on military bases in the United States will be in the hands of private developers and managers, according to Durham.

Service members won't have to pay more for privatized housing at Luke. They will collect the military's basic allowance for housing, just like those who live off base. That allowance will cover the rent on-base residents pay to the private developer, as well as average utility costs. Water, sewer and garbage fees will be provided at no cost to tenants.

However, after a year, or once the on-base homes are metered, a military tenant could wind up paying living costs not covered by the allowance if he or she used more electricity or gas than the average.

Luke's housing will be privatized in a phase that will include privatization at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida and Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

### BRIEFS

#### Luke volunteers help personnel with taxes

Luke Air Force Base provides a nearly all-volunteer income tax center. Last year, volunteers processed 7,345 tax returns, saving Luke personnel more than \$600,000 in tax preparation fees.

Any active duty member, dependent or retiree are welcome to become tax volunteers. The next training sessions for beginners are scheduled for 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 12-16. Refresher training for experienced tax volunteers is available Jan. 9-13. Contact Capt. Rob Stuart at (623) 856-6901.

#### Public tours offered at Goldwater Range

The 56th Range Management Office is offering tours of the Barry M. Goldwater Range in southern Arizona. You can observe fighter pilots in action on a manned range. The tour includes a short hike and presentation about the range's history. Reservations: Teresa Nelson at (623) 856-8516.

#### Still time to apply for space, missile careers

Company-grade officers in the 1997 to 2000 commissioned year groups can apply for retraining for space and missile careers by Dec. 15.

Eligible officers must have at least one year's time on station as of March 15 and be released from their current career field. Applicants must also pass a Class III flying physical.

The 135 career field is seeking to add 20 to 25 officers this year. Applicants must be willing to fill a range of positions within the career field.

"Cross flow opportunities include only a limited number of spacelift/range operations and satellite command and control positions, space surveillance and missile warning duty positions," said Maj. Kendal Stevenson, chief of space and missile training assignments at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Information: DSN 665-2646 or (210) 565-2646.

*The Arizona Republic*

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Newzap.com, 5 Dec 05, Online

### **PV continues help for Miss.**

*By Wendy Miller, Independent Newspapers*

Three months after Hurricane Katrina devastated much of the nation's Gulf Coast, many communities are still struggling to clean up the mess.

Thanks to the Town of Paradise Valley, the going is a little easier for its adopted sister city of Bay St. Louis, Miss. PV already shipped three surplus municipal vehicles - a 1996 Chevrolet Caprice, 1998 Crown Victoria and a 1996 Chevrolet Lumina - and several computers to the community.



More help should be on its way soon. PV mechanics already have thoroughly inspected one 1-ton and two 3/4-ton utility trucks. The pick-ups were donated by the city of Phoenix, who would otherwise have retired them from its fleet.

In addition, the Town is waiting to receive a retired police car from Sedona and a backhoe with trailer from the Salt River Project, Town Manager Tom Martinsen said.

Earlier this year, the Town put out a call for trucks, loaders, fork lifts, backhoes and other heavy equipment needed to clear away the debris and - literally - build a fresh foundation for Bay St. Louis.

"These vehicles are of extreme importance to help with Bay St. Louis's clean-up process," said Paradise Valley Mayor Ron Clarke, who likened the damage to a "war zone" after viewing it firsthand with his wife, Sheryl, shortly after the storm battered the Gulf of Mexico Aug. 25-29.

In addition, the Clarkes received donations of school books Dec. 2 from students at West Gilbert Charter School and 50 backpacks filled with supplies from a private donor. Mrs. Clarke, an educator, is spearheading a drive to help rebuild Bay St. Louis's schools.

Mayor Clarke is working with Luke Air Force Base, where he is an honorary squadron commander, to ship the donated work vehicles to Bay St. Louis. He hopes a C-17 transport plane can be diverted to Luke to pick up the vehicles and fly them to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., about a half-hour from Bay St. Louis.

*Newzap.com*

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"Gen. Robin Rand has been very supportive. This would save us a lot of money," Mayor Clarke said.

The Town has expended \$24,262.01 in merchandise, salaries and travel expenses since adopting Bay St. Louis. That figure includes:

1 \$9,730: the value of the three surplus municipal vehicles and equipment

1 \$812.14: Public Works staff time to prepare the vehicles

1 \$1,250: the value of the surplus computer equipment

1 \$7,522.16: total salary and benefits for three police officers to transport vehicles and computer equipment

1 \$2,092.92: officers' travel expenses (fuel, hotel, airfare, meals)

1 \$2,854.79: cost of assessment trip by mayor and first lady

Donations to the Town's hurricane relief fund total \$33,111.83. The figure includes \$19,673.25 raised at the pancake breakfast organized by Town residents and \$13,438.58 in contributions designated for Bay St. Louis police equipment. The latter was raised by Paradise Valley police officers and a donation from resident Scott LeMarr.

PV officials plan to turn over the pancake breakfast donations by the end of the year, Mayor Ron Clarke said.

"Right now, the money isn't earmarked for any specific purpose aside from the rebuilding effort. The Bay St. Louis people are doing a balancing act down there right now," Mayor Clarke said. "We're waiting to see how else we can make a difference."

Post your comments on this issue at [www.newszapforums.com/forum23](http://www.newszapforums.com/forum23). News Editor Wendy Miller can be reached at [wmiller@newszap.com](mailto:wmiller@newszap.com) or (480) 483-0977.

*Newzap.com*

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